



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Forest View Fire Department.

7010 W. 46th Street • Forest View, Illinois 60402

Phone (708) 749-1110 Fax (708) 749-9301

Mark Jones
Fire Chief

The Forest View Fire Department is made up of 36 uniformed members who cover 2,190 shifts per year providing Fire, Fire Prevention and Emergency Medical Services 24 hours a day to the residents and visitors to the Village of Forest View.

The members of the department have a combined **6,803 hours of Fire and EMS training**. Some of the highlights of this training are attending “live fire training” sponsored by our MABAS division. Yearly required OSHA and State Fire Marshalls office trainings, and Loyola EMS system monthly for EMT’s and Paramedics.

Our Fire Prevention and Public Education division have been conducting Fire Inspections at all of our businesses, and Public Education events in schools along with station tours, two open houses’ as well as Village events. The Fire Department also conducted 31 fire station tours for 2023.

2023 incidents by type:

Emergency Medical Service – 411

Fire Response (Fire Alarms, Trouble Alarms and TRT responses) = 348

Motor Vehicle Crash = 104

Total request for service for 2023 = 863

2023 Accomplishments

During 2023 with the support of President Miller, the Village Board and Village Administrator Dropka the members of the Fire Department were able to complete many projects as well as update things that needed to be



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addressed within the Fire Department. I would like to highlight a few of the major ones at this time.

In 2022 we started the process of a review from ISO (Insurance Service Office) to work towards lowering our ISO rating, and that will lower what residence and businesses will pay for Fire Insurance. Currently the Village of Forest View is rated at an ISO 6. According to ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), four main criteria comprise a fire rating score.

- 50% comes from the quality of your local fire department, including staffing levels, training and proximity of the firehouse.
- 40% comes from availability of water supply, including the prevalence of fire hydrants and how much water is available to put out fires.
- 10% comes from the quality of the area's emergency communications systems (911).
- An extra 5.5% comes from community outreach, including fire prevention and safety courses.

The Fire Department has implemented programs that ISO will be evaluating over the next year 2023-2024 to help lower our current rating are a training program that addresses all of the required OFSM, OSHA, IDPH and Loyola EMS system each year.

- Training that is specific to the Village of Forest View and the Forest View Fire Department.
- Yearly fire inspections and pre-planning of each business within the Village.



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- they will be able to be added to the CAD Computer Aided Dispatch allowing the department to access this information on MDT's (Mobile Data Terminal a computer in each unit.)

We are now are doing at least one “open House” at the station opening our doors to the public, during the open house we give tours, we also give fire safety demonstration's.

The Fire Department also puts fire safety tips as well as other information about the department in each of the Village newsletter.

With all of the changes made with public education it now allows us to reach 100% of our residents multiple times a year.

The Fire Department and Public Works have been working together regarding our water supply and our fire hydrants.

In November of 2023, the Village/Fire Department entered into a 1-year contract with Metro Paramedic Services to provide us with 6 fulltime Firefighter/Paramedics to help with our staffing shortage and to ensure a minimum of 2 Firefighter/Paramedics a day. This will ensure that we have at least 2 Firefighter/Paramedics on duty at all times. This is working extremely well and I am satisfied with the partnership with the Village of Forest View and Metro Paramedic Service.

The Fire Department was able to address some of the needs regarding the departments fleet of vehicles. In 2022 we were able to send in our 1999 fire engine to be refurbished bringing this fire engine up to current NFPA and DOT standards and fixing all mechanical issues as well as body corrosion. To replace this 23-year-old fire engine would have cost the Village \$650,000.00



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and take 2 years to be delivered. By doing this refurb it will add another 10-15 years to the life of the fire engine and the cost was \$300,000.00 with only 6 months to complete. This will also not affect the age of our fleet when applying for future grants. This unit was put back into service in the spring of 2023.

In 2023 we continued to update our policy and procedure manual for the Fire Department.

Looking Ahead

As we progress throughout 2024 and beyond, the department will be continuing to acquire needed items and repairs within the Fire Department.

We will continue to apply for grants and identify new sources of revenue for the Village.

We will continue as a department to proudly provide quality Fire and Emergency Medical Service to the Village of Forest View.

Lastly, I would like to say "Thank You" to President Miller, the Village Board and Village Administrator Mike Dropka for their continued support and funding needed to accomplish all that we did in 2023 and I look forward to working with all of them in 2024.

Mark Jones
Fire Chief